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Policy and the CIA

The shaping of a single intelligence unit to coordinate the functions of Army, Navy and Air Force G2 is well and good. The Cuban experience is not the first to point up the continuing need for cohesion in this vital defense area.

However, in the Central Intelligence Agency some separations and distinctions appear also to be needed.

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We are glad to see Sen. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign-Relations Committee, support the idea of divorcing the CIA's operational phase, which to some degree has involved the making of policy, from its intelligence-gathering activities.

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One of the most serious mistakes of the Cuban affair apparents was that CIA authorities threw their backing to one faction among the exiles that had characterized the need for agrarian reform in Cuba as "a myth"; while largely ignoring the group with the best underground connections on the island.

There are many factors that are unknown and that probably will remain so for a long time.

But whatever these factors, politics among the Cuban exiles ought not to be the business of the CIA. It is encouraging that the White House, which must bear and has borne final responsibility, has changes under consideration.